

THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND HIS TIME

ful. Every effort is now being made to hurry our army divisions across the ocean. You inform me that you have strong hopes of being sent over within sixty days. The volunteers who come into your division will be associated with veterans, so that they will speedily learn their duties and will have the "prospect of immediate service overseas in front of them. Moreover they will go in with the men of their own State, and in most cases their own friends and kinsfolk will be in the division.

"I not only respect the men who are going to the front, but I envy them! I am proud beyond measure that all my own kinsfolk of military age are at the front with the forces—sons, son-in-law, nephews, cousins. This is the greatest war in history. America must do her full duty in it. It will be a mighty sight pleasanter hereafter for the young men of to-day to explain why they did go into the army instead of how they stayed out of the army. I envy every young man physically fit and above or below the draft age who now has the chance to join your division; and unless he is conclusively able to show good reason why he does not do so he will have a whole lot to explain to his children in the future, unless he comes in."

In explanation of his course in criticizing the Wilson Administration, he wrote to Alfred Holman, Editor of the San Francisco *Argonaut*, on April 19, 1918:

"In this present crisis it really seemed to me that somebody had to hoist the black flag and refuse to take or give quarter; and there was nobody but myself

quite in the posi-
tion to do it. I need hardly tell you that I now
have numerous good friends who nervously beg me not
needlessly to
continue offending the German-Americans, or
the Sinn
Feiners or the Pacifists, or the Bolshevists, or
the I. W. W.,
etc., etc., etc. They assure me that I will
jeopardize my in-
fluence and my future by so doing. The
answer is simple.
As for my future these good people doubtless
do not believe
me when I tell them the truth, which is that I
have absolutely
no concern with my future unless it is
conditioned upon